

The Top 10 ‘Real Facts’ About Fraud and Abuse in MaineCare, Food Stamps and Other Programs

10

They are driving a new car all the time and on MaineCare.

Real Facts: Federal law allows recipients to have a car, recognizing that people need one to keep a job. This is especially true in a rural state like Maine.

9

People are not reporting all of their assets and their kids are still on MaineCare.

Real Facts: Assets are not counted when determining a child’s eligibility. Adults, except pregnant women, must meet a strict asset test.

8

They have ‘other’ insurance. They shouldn’t get MaineCare.

Real Facts: Some families do have other insurance, in which case, MaineCare is reimbursed by other insurance carriers.

7

The parent is working full-time. Why are they on MaineCare?

Real Facts: Some employers do not offer health insurance or their plan is unaffordable. Many working families qualify for MaineCare.

6

My neighbor transferred assets to get nursing home assistance.

Real Facts: This is thoroughly examined before determining eligibility. Laws are strict, but provisions exist to protect spouses.

5

People on Food Stamps use the EBT card to buy alcohol and tobacco products.

Real Facts: Federal law does NOT allow Food Stamps to be used for anything but food. Even toothpaste is not allowed.

4

People on Food Stamps fill their carts with junk food.

Real Facts: The federal government establishes what food can be purchased. Research shows there is no difference in the type of food purchased by Food Stamp recipients and all other consumers.

3

People who are not legal citizens get all sorts of benefits.

Real Facts: They don’t. The Deficit Reduction Act requires a person to prove Maine residency and be a U.S. citizen or a *legal* immigrant to get benefits.

2

People are working AND getting disability checks.

Real Facts: Our program supports and encourages people returning to the workforce if able. Federal law allows people with disabilities to keep benefits during a transitional period.

1

Clients are working ‘under the table.’

Real Facts: This violates State and Federal law. We investigate every report of a person working ‘under the table’ and still collecting benefits.

We are committed to running successful, publicly accountable programs that serve people in need effectively. If you have concerns about how our programs are delivering services, please call 1-800-424-9121 and trust that your report will be taken seriously.



John E. Baldacci, Governor

Department of Health
and Human Services

Maine People Living
Safe, Healthy and Productive Lives

Brenda M. Harvey, Commissioner